Prescribing Hot Topics | Formulary Updates | Drug Safety Updates

East Lancashire Health Economy Medicines Management Board
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Reminder: Prescribing restrictions for Strontium

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In 2014 the European Medicines Agency (EMA) concluded its review of the cardiovascular risks associated with Strontium Ranelate (Protelos®) and issued the following guidance:

- Strontium ranelate is now restricted to the treatment of severe osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and adult men at high risk of fracture who cannot use other osteoporosis treatments due to, for example, contraindications or intolerance
- Treatment should only be started by a physician with experience in the treatment of osteoporosis
- The risk of developing cardiovascular disease should be assessed before starting treatment. Treatment should not be started in people who have or have had:
  - Ischaemic heart disease
  - Peripheral arterial disease
  - Cerebrovascular disease
  - Uncontrolled hypertension
- Cardiovascular risk should be monitored every 6–12 months
- Treatment should be stopped if the individual develops ischaemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, cerebrovascular disease, or if hypertension is uncontrolled.

In response to this alert Strontium has been removed from the ELMMB formulary, but still continues to be prescribed by a number of practices across the health economy. Prescribers are advised to identify and review patients who are currently prescribed Strontium for ongoing appropriateness and to ensure that systems are in place for regular monitoring.

Strontium ranelate has been removed from the formulary after EMA recommendations due to associated cardiovascular risks

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For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on:
01254 282087 (BwD CCG) or 01282 644807 (EL CCG)

Ref: MHRA. Strontium ranelate: Cardiovascular risk (March 2014)